

From: Arona Ann Pearlstein
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:21am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello.

My name is Arona Ann Pearlstein and I am a computer programmer.

This e-mail regards the Proposed Final Judgment in the Microsoft Anti-Trust lawsuit. As per the Tunney Act comment process, I am providing comments about this settlement.

The proposed settlement is, simply put, a bad idea.

In reviewing the proposed settlement, two issues stand out the most:

1) According to the settlement, Microsoft cannot retaliate against vendors (OEMs, ISVs and IHVs) who support or develop alternatives to Windows. But, the settlement does not provide any assistance to these vendors. Providing assistance to these vendors would encourage healthy competition in the Intel-compatible operating system market.

Even worse, the vendors are restricted to writing software whose sole purpose is to interoperate with the Windows operating system. They are thus effectively prevented from writing operating systems that can interoperate with Windows programs.

2) The proposed final judgment does not provide any means for enforcement. While there are suggestions for a technical committee and such, no enforcement plan of action has been developed.

The proposed final judgment must have some legitimate plan for enforcement; it is not enough to leave the job up the legal system. If no enforcement plan is provided, the judgment's affect upon Microsoft will be negligible at best, a proverbial slap on the wrist.

Although I currently live overseas in Geneva, Switzerland, this issue is extremely important to all

American citizens, as well as to anybody (regardless of his or her nationality) involved in the computer industry. Switzerland's neighbors in the European Economic Union (EEU) are currently discussing similar legal action against Microsoft. They are no doubt examining the proposed final judgment carefully.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Arona Ann Pearlstein
aronapearl@yahoo.com

Do You Yahoo!?
Great stuff seeking new owners in Yahoo! Auctions!
<http://auctions.yahoo.com>